THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India has identified Tourism as a ``High Priority`` industry for foreign and private investment. Consequently, a Foreign Investment Promotion Board and a Project Approval Board had been set up in order to clear proposals for foreign investment expeditiously. Further, foreign investment and NRI investment up to 100% along with foreign collaboration in respect of Technical Consultancy Services, Franchise, Management Fee are under the automatic approval scheme where such proposals are cleared by RBI itself. The Foreign Direct Investment amounting to Rs. 42504.73 million has been approved in Hotel and Tourism sector during the post-liberalisation policy period from 1-8-91 to 30-11-99.

(d) The individual tourism service providers are constantly making efforts to upgrade their product by entering into foreign collaborations in order to bring facilities and services of international standards in the country which will result in the overall modernisation of the Indian tourism product and thus lead to higher earnings.

Development of Tourism in Gujarat

3947. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there are several beautiful places in Gujarat in which the domestic and foreign tourists show great interest;

(b) if, so, whether Government have made some special efforts to develop these places so that the domestic and foreign tourists may be attracted;

(c) Whether the Gujarat have submitted some tourism projects for approval; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present position thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The development of these tourist places is the primary responsibility of the State Government. However, Central Financial Assistance is made available to the State Government after a joint prioritisation exercise and subsequent receipt of detailed project from the State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Based on the proposals received from Gujarat for 1999-2000 Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 362.92 lakhs for various projects out of which an amount of Rs. 80.19 lakhs has already been released.

Development of Kempambudi Tank

3948. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned One crore rupees for the development of Kempambudi Tank in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details of developmental works proposed to be taken-up;

(c) the estimated cost for the development of the above tank; and

(d) the amount, if any, released so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Development of tourism projects is primarily undertaken by the State Government/UT Administrations. Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with State Govt. concerned.

Ministry of Tourism has requested the State Govt. of Karnataka to send a proposal for Central financial assistance for carrying out improvements in the Kempambudi Tank in Bangalore. However, no reply has been received from the State Govt.

Construction of Yatri Niwas in Uttar Pradesh

3949. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have chalked out any scheme and programme for construction of Yatri Niwas in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the financial allocation likely to be proposed by the Government to the State in this regard; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?